

## REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 12, 1997 with claims 1-26. The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,606,668 to Shwed (Shwed). After responses traversing the rejection, Applicants appealed the rejections. In an Appeal Decision dated January 14, 2004, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences upheld the rejections.

In this response under 37 C.F.R. §1.114, Applicants file a Request for Continued Prosecution along with the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) and the present Amendment. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that prosecution be reopened and that the present Amendment be entered.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 17 and 22. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the present specification, for example, see page 2, lines 12-19; and page 5, line 1, through page 6, line 5. More particularly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 12, 17 and 22 to recite that a security policy comprises multiple rules. Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite that a domain comprises at least one security policy and a security policy comprises multiple rules, and that a plurality of administrators are associated with the plurality of domains. In view of the Appeal Decision, Applicants have amended such claims in an effort to further clarify the subject matter of the invention and expedite the case through to issuance.

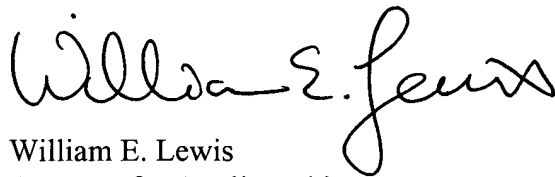
Applicants assert that Shwed fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 17 and 22. Accordingly, it is requested that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

For example, Shwed fails to teach or suggest the elements of claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 17 and 22 including a plurality of security policies wherein a security policy comprises multiple rules. Shwed discloses a single rule set in the context of object groups. Thus, in a manner much like any conventional ordered rule set system, the Shwed system handles group requirements by simply defining the rules in the single rule set in order to implement the group requirements. Accordingly, Shwed does not teach or suggest a plurality of security policies wherein a security policy comprises multiple rules, as in the claimed invention. That is, the claimed invention expressly distinguishes a rule from a security policy by defining a security policy as comprising multiple rules. Shwed neither teaches nor suggests such an express limitation.

Further, regarding independent claim 16, Shwed fails to teach or suggest the elements of claim 16 including a domain comprising at least one security policy and a security policy comprising multiple rules, and that a plurality of administrators are associated with the plurality of domains, wherein multiple rules are administered such that only an administrator for a given domain is permitted to modify rules of a security policy for that domain.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1, 8, 12, 16, 17 and 22 are patentably distinguishable over Shwed and therefore in condition for allowance. Also, due at least to their respective dependence on such independent claims, it is further respectfully asserted that claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-15, 18-21 and 23-26 are patentably distinguishable over Shwed and therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

Date: February 23, 2004

William E. Lewis  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 39,274  
Ryan & Mason, L.L.P.  
90 Forest Avenue  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
(516) 759-2946